

# LAKE WACCAMAW STATE PARK PARK PROFILE

## PARK PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose statement for this park has not yet been developed.

## PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEMES

**Lake Waccamaw Aquatic Life:** This theme emphasizes the diversity of plant and animal life found in the lake, the factors that are responsible for its existence and the need to protect the lake's water quality.

**Freshwater Mollusks:** This theme focuses on identification of the many freshwater mollusk species, their habitat requirements, life history, distribution and vulnerability.

**Endemic Fish:** This theme includes identification of the endemic fish species, their habitat requirements, life history, distribution and vulnerability.

## STATISTICS

Visitation (1999)	85,556
Operating Budget (FY 98-99)	\$ 369,909
Revenue (FY 98-99)	\$ 31,269

## VISITOR FACILITIES

Primitive group camping (4 sites)	Picnic area
4 Hiking trails (9.3 miles total)	Lake fishing
Visitor center	Boat access
Exhibit hall	Boardwalk/pier

## CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION NEEDS

1	The <b>ranger residences</b> project will construct 2 ranger residences to address public safety concerns and natural resource and facility protection.	\$ 387,845
2	The <b>family tent and trailer campground</b> project will provide electric and water line extensions, septic system, dumpstation, road, 34 campsites, 1000 ft. of access path to lake, standard washhouse, 12-table picnic shelter, 8-table shelter, 50 picnic sites, handicapped drinking fountains, 60-car parking lot and road to the canoe portage.	2,050,289
3	The <b>trail improvements</b> project will construct 6 miles of trail from the southern loop to the dam.	264,440
4	The <b>pier and boardwalk renovation</b> project will install an accessible walkway and parking, renovate 10,000 sq. ft. of boardwalk, redeck the pier and provide a handrail and shade shelter.	235,343

5	The <b>group camp development</b> project will construct an 18 ft. access road, 3 group camps, 24-car parking lot, washhouse, septic system and extend underground electric and water lines.	463,399
6	The <b>maintenance complex</b> project will purchase miscellaneous shop equipment, pave the maintenance yard, fence the maintenance area, extend electric and water lines, construct a 6-bay vehicular storage building, 400 ft. access road, a flammable storage building, lumber storage shed, maintenance building, warehouse building, boat lift/shelter on the lake with access road, wash pad, gas tank and septic system.	987,368
7	The <b>boat access at dam/dam repair</b> project (land dependent) will construct a 1000 ft. access road, gate, 30-car parking lot, 12 picnic tables, lake and river portage launches, trailhead interpretive signs, electric and water line extensions, force main to connect to city sewer, pump station, boardwalk over the dam, pier, toilet building and dam repairs and modifications.	677,446
8	The <b>boathouse and pier</b> project will construct an accessible 375-ft. pier, boathouse, sun shelter on the pier, and water and electric line extensions.	764,399
9	The <b>family primitive campsites</b> project at Scott's Ridge will construct 5 primitive campsites including tables and grills, Clevis Multrum toilet, and access trail and access road improvements.	109,554
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<hr/> \$5,940,083

## REGISTERED NATURAL HERITAGE AREA

**Lake Waccamaw Registered Natural Heritage Area:** This area covers 8,938 acres. This lake is the largest open water Carolina Bay in the state and is unique for its nearly neutral pH; typical Carolina Bays have much lower pH values. The unusually high pH is attributed in part to the limestone outcrops that occur along the north shore. The lake's size, water quality and large number of endemic mollusk and fish species rank it as a nationally prominent area of aquatic diversity. The Waccamaw Silverside, a small fish species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened, occurs only in Lake Waccamaw. The swamp forest in the southeastern portion of the Registered Natural Heritage Area borders the Waccamaw River and is well developed. The Natural Heritage Program has identified two natural community types in this Registered Natural Heritage Area: Natural Lake Shoreline; and Cypress—Gum Swamp (Blackwater Subtype).

## POTENTIAL ADDITIONS TO REGISTERED NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS

**Council Ridge:** The sand ridge along the eastern shore of the lake contains an example of a Coastal Fringe Sandhill community. This is among the farthest inland sites for this community type.

**Upper Waccamaw River Swamp:** Good quality examples of Coastal Plain Levee Forest and Cypress—Gum Swamp occur along the upper part of the Waccamaw River below the dam. This area has been acquired since the registry was done.

## FUTURE LAND ACQUISITION NEEDS

Completion of the Lake Waccamaw State Park master plan will require the acquisition of 1,413 acres. High priority acquisitions include land for the development of park facilities. If the property at the end of Bella Coola Road and the dam is not acquired soon, it could be developed and lost. Lots at the park's entrance also need to be acquired for entrance protection and for location of the park's boat lift/launch. The north boundary of the park needs to be straightened out and more buffer provided. Additional land is also needed between the Waccamaw River and the road on the south side of the lake.

Master Plan Total Acreage	12,083 acres
Current Park Acreage	<u>10,670 acres</u>
<b>Acquisition Needs</b>	<b>1,413 acres</b>

## 1999 STAFF POSITIONS

Permanent		Seasonal		Peak Load	
Park Superintendent I	1	Park Attendant	1	Park Attendant	1
Park Ranger III	1	Assistant Park Ranger	1		
Park Ranger I	1	Office Assistant II	1		
Maintenance Mechanic III	1				
General Utility Worker	1				
Office Assistant III	1				

## PROPOSED STAFF ADDITIONS

Permanent	Seasonal	Peak Load